

AGN. NO. \_\_\_\_\_

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR DON KNABE

January 13, 2009

The County of Los Angeles currently has a budget in excess of \$23 billion and employs over 100,000 people spread across hundreds of buildings and facilities, making the County the largest employer in Southern California. Given the role of the County of Los Angeles as the largest employer and largest provider of local government services in the region, the County is also one of the largest consumers of electricity and other utilities in California. The County's current costs for utilities are nearly \$200 million every year, including approximately \$20 million a year for water and electricity in the Department of Parks and Recreation, \$30 million to power streetlights and waterworks under the Department of Public Works, and the remaining \$150 million for utility costs in other County facilities.

Currently, the production of electricity is the leading cause of industrial air pollution in the United States since most of this energy production comes from coal and fossil fuel power plants. For example, according to current Environmental Protection Agency data, electricity generation in the United States is responsible for 38% of the nation's carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas contributor, 66% of the nation's sulfur dioxide, which causes acid rain, and 40% of the nation's mercury, which contributes to contamination of soils and waterways.

- M O R E -

MOTION

MOLINA \_\_\_\_\_

RIDLEY-THOMAS \_\_\_\_\_

YAROSLAVSKY \_\_\_\_\_

ANTONOVICH \_\_\_\_\_

KNABE \_\_\_\_\_

Recognizing the damaging environmental impacts of many types of fossil fuel-powered electricity generation, dozens of the nation's largest corporations are making investments in renewable energy generation in order to produce and consume electricity with fewer environmental impacts. As the nation's largest County, Los Angeles County should begin investigating the viability of purchasing renewable energy as way to offset the environmental impacts of the County's substantial electricity needs.

**I, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors direct the Chief Executive Officer, in conjunction with the Director of Internal Services and the Director of Public Works, to examine the practicality of Los Angeles County offsetting a minimum of 10% up to as much as 100% of our current annual electrical needs through the use of renewable energy;

**I, FURTHER, MOVE** that this research should include the viability of the County purchasing renewable energy credits and the use of renewable energy, which shifts the amount of conventional electricity generation required away from fuels like natural gas, coal and oil; and that a report of the County's current annual energy usage and costs, along with options for the County to begin purchasing renewable energy be made to the Board of Supervisors in 90 days.

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